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WOLVERINE® ORIGINS™

WAY
DILLON

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WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—savage claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as anyone. With those long lost memories finally returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Meanwhile, the American super hero community has been ravaged by a Civil War, waged over the newly enacted Superhuman Registration Act. Iron Man and his followers rallied in support of the Act, Captain America and his in opposition. Following Captain America's surrender to Iron Man, the Sentinel of Liberty was assassinated.

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OUR WAR

PART 1

DANIEL WAY	STEVE DILLON	AVALON'S MATT MILLA	VC'S CORY PETIT	MARKO DJURDJEVIC	AUBREY SITTERSON	AXEL ALONSO	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY
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WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE WORK OF CHRIS CLAREMONT AND JIM LEE

SOLDIER, SYMBOL and SAVIOUR

EVERYBODY HANDLES DEATH DIFFERENTLY.

ME? I USUALLY GET OVER IT.

BUT THEN, I CAN.

SOME PEOPLE HANDLE IT BY CRYIN' AN' CARRYIN' ON AT THE FUNERAL... THROWIN' THEMSELVES ON THE CASKET...

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH DEAD BODIES IN MY TIME. I DON'T GO IN FOR FUNERALS.

MY OPINION? THE WAKE IS THE WAY TO GO.

MORE CIVILIZED.

SOLDIER, SYMBOL and SAVIOUR

PROBABLY AIN'T A GREAT IDEA, ME SITTIN' IN THE SMITHSONIAN, GETTING DRUNK, MY CURRENT SITUATION BEIN' WHAT IT IS...

...BUT, LIKE A WISE MAN ONCE SAID, "WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT IDEAS, *ANYWAY?*"

YEP...

THAT WAS YOU, STEVE--"*SENTINEL OF LIBERTY*".

"*SYMBOL OF FREEDOM*".

HELL, I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU IN THAT GETUP--BACK WHEN I FIRST MET YOU.

WHAT WAS IT I SAID...?

OH, YEAH--

MADRIPOOR, 1941.

LIKE THE *SUIT.*

JUST THE THING FOR PLAYIN' IT *SLY AN' SNEAKY.*

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A *SYMBOL.*

NEVER MET ONE O' *THOSE* BEFORE.

C'MON. *KAFF*

LET'S GET A *DRINK.*

YOU WERE PRETTY GREEN BACK THEN, BUT YOU HAD IT WHERE IT COUNTED.

YOU KEPT YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE...

...AN' YOU WEREN'T PRONE TO BEIN' *RECKLESS.*

BUT *MOST* IMPORTANTLY...

L'CHAIM!

...YOU KNEW WHEN TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WERE EVERYTHING I WASN'T...

...AN' VICE-VERSA.

I DID THE THINGS YOU WOULDN'T-- OR COULDN'T--DO.

WE WERE A *PERFECT* FIT.

ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS *LAY OUT THE TERMS.*

YOU BUMPED INTO THOSE GERMANS ON PURPOSE.

STATIN' A FACT, BUT ASKIN' A QUESTION JUST THE SAME.

YUP.

BUMPED INTO *YOU* ON PURPOSE, TOO.

BEST WAY TO KICK OFF ANY KIND O' LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP?

TELL THE TRUTH.

AN' THAT'S WHAT I DID...

...KINDA.

I TOLD 'IM THAT MY STAKE IN ALL THIS WAS KEEPIN' ***THE HAND*** IN CHECK--MADRIPOOR WAS MY TURF AN' I DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY ROCKIN' THE BOAT. THAT WAS THE TRUTH.

WHAT I DIDN'T TELL 'IM WAS THE ***WHOLE*** TRUTH--AT LEAST, AS I KNEW IT, THEN. I'D LEARNED FROM SERAPH THAT WHOEVER I--AN' SERAPH--EVENTUALLY ANSWERED TO HAD A LONG-STANDIN' AGREEMENT WITH THE HAND, AN AGREEMENT THAT, EVIDENTLY, WASN'T AGREEABLE NO MORE.

SO THE HAND WAS LOOKIN' ***ELSEWHERE*** FOR AN ALLY...

...AN' THEY'D FOUND THE PERFECT CANDIDATE IN ***BARON VON STRUCKER,*** THE REICH'S GO-TO HATCHET MAN.

STRUCKER WAS JUST THE KINDA ENTERPRISIN' PSYCHOPATH THE HAND WANTED--ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS PROVE HIS LOYALTY AN' THE DEAL WAS DONE.

QUESTION WAS, ***HOW*** WAS STRUCKER GONNA DO THAT?

IT WAS ***PETROVITCH*** WHO PUT THE FINAL PIECE IN PLACE.

NATALIA ROMANOVA.

WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER.

NATALIA ROMANOVA.

THE LITTLE GIRL THAT I *TRAINED.*

THE LITTLE GIRL THAT I *"KILLED"...*

...SO THAT I COULD *SAVE HER LIFE.*

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW ANYBODY COULD'A FOUND HER--HELL, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW ANYBODY'D KNOW TO EVEN *LOOK*--BUT *ONE* THING WAS *DAMN* SURE:

LET'S GO GET 'ER.

I AIMED TO FIND OUT.

IMMEDIATELY...

MEIN GOTT!

...AN' WITHOUT DELAY.

LOGAN?!

GO LIMP!

CAVALRY'S...

HERE...

WHAT...

...WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?!

SAVING YOU!

AGAIN!

LIKE YOU "*SAVED*" ME *LAST* TIME?

WHAT DO YOU--?

IF I AM NOT A *ROMANOVA*, WHAT *AM* I?

YOU...

YOU COULD BE ANYTHING YOU *WANT*...

GET DOWN!

BLAM! BLAM!

I WANT THIS.

BLAM!

HE TOLD ME TO BE BRAVE...

YEAH.

I TOLD HER A *LOT* O' THINGS.

JUST WISH SHE'D *LISTENED.*

SOMETHIN' I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU, STEVE:

IF YOU WEREN'T CAPTAIN AMERICA, WHO *WOULD* YOU HAVE BEEN?

YOU, HER...

...NEVER COULD WRAP MY MIND AROUND HAVIN' A CHOICE LIKE THAT.

I CAME OUTTA THE BOX LIKE THIS--NEVER *HAD* A CHOICE.

EVEN WHEN I HAD NO IDEA WHO I WAS...

...I WAS STILL A CRAZY SUMBITCH.

WHAMM!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

NATALIA-- THE GIRL--I KNOW HER!

SHE'S ONE OF US!

WELL, OF COURSE SHE IS.

Y-YOU KNEW?!

I KNEW THAT SHE WAS AN OPERATIVE, UNDER ORDERS...

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU HAD A PAST WITH HER--

WHAT ARE HER ORDERS?

TO KILL THE JONIN, SUPREME LEADER OF THE HAND.

AN' THERE IT WAS--THE *WHOLE* WHOLE TRUTH. THE HAND WASN'T IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW ALLY...

THE *JONIN* HASN'T EXPOSED HIMSELF IN *YEARS*-- THIS WAS ALL A *RUSE* TO *DRAW HIM OUT.*

...*WE* WERE.

BUT...

...SHE *CAN'T* KILL 'IM!

OH, I ASSURE YOU, LOGAN...SHE *CAN.*

AS YOU, YOURSELF, SAID--SHE *IS* "ONE OF US".

NO, I MEAN--SHE *CAN'T!*

SHE'S *UNARMED!*

JUST... STAY HERE. PLEASE.

I DON'T WANT YOU *INVOLVED* IN THIS.

NOW, I GOT ***NO DOUBT*** THAT NATALIA COULD'A PULLED IT OFF.

PISTOL OR NO PISTOL...

TAKE UP THE SACRED SWORD...

...SHE'D HAVE FOUND A WAY TO GET THE JOB DONE.

BUT THERE'S A PROMISE-- A ***SECRET PROMISE,*** THAT I NEVER TELL 'EM ABOUT--THAT I MAKE TO ALL MY FRIENDS.

NATALIA, THE ***X-MEN...*** ***ALL*** OF 'EM.

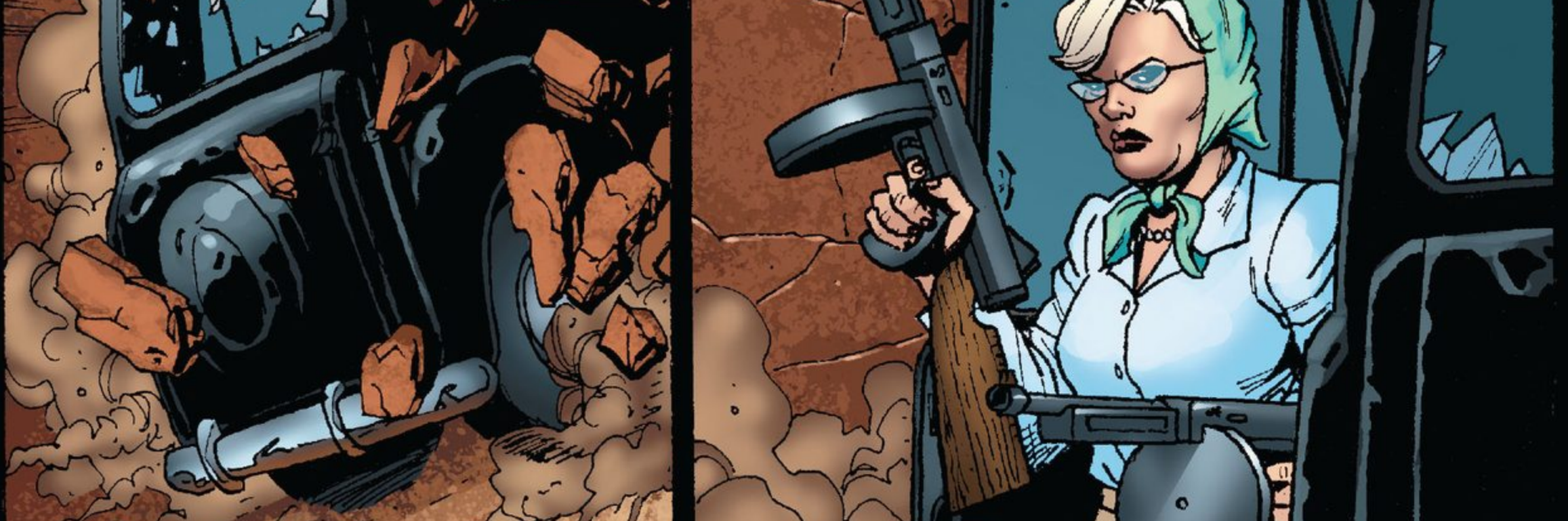
IF ***SOMEBODY'S*** GOTTA GET BLOODY...

...I MAKE SURE IT'S ***ME.***

SHOKK!

'COURSE WHEN ***EVERYBODY'S*** GOTTA GET BLOODY, I USUALLY JUST LET IT HAPPEN.

DOWN!


-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA

THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US!

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

THE AIRPORT.

A PLANE IS WAITING FOR YOU.

THING IS, I HADN'T.

THE PLANE?

THAT WAS FOR NATALIA'S EXTRACTION. WASN'T MY PLAN, AT ALL.

BET THAT IMPRESSED YOU, EH, OLD BUDDY? THE CANUCKLEHEAD HAD COME UP WITH A FULL-ON ESCAPE PLAN.

BUT IT WORKED JUST THE SAME. I HAD YA.

GOT ABOUT *FIVE MINUTES* 'FORE THIS STRIP TURNS INTO A *WAR ZONE!*

GET MOVIN'!

YOU GO AHEAD, SWEETIE.

WE WORK WELL TOGETHER.

HOOK.

BE A *SHAME* TO BREAK UP SUCH A GOOD TEAM.

LINE.

APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT I WORK BETTER *ALONE.*

DON'T *NEED* NO SIDEKICK.

OH, ACTUALLY, I WAS...

...*NEVER MIND.*

AN' SINKER.

PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE...

THAT WENT WELL...

SERAPH'S

YEAH...

LOGAN, IT WENT VERY WELL.

YOU HAVE THE AMERICAN'S *CONFIDENCE.*

SO, WHAT? WASN'T *HARD*... HE'S A *CHUMP.*

OTHERS ARE NOT SO SURE...WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE GOING TO *GERMANY* TO FIND OUT.

YOU WILL EXPLOIT THE AMERICAN'S CONFIDENCE TO GET *CLOSE* TO HIM--FIND OUT IF HE CAN BE *"TURNED."*

FAILING THAT, FIND OUT IF THE EXPERIMENT THAT *PRODUCED* HIM CAN BE *REPLICATED.*

FAILING *THAT...*

&?%$ IT, STEVE.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *ME* THAT KILLED YOU...

TO BE CONTINUED...

SPECIAL PREVIEW OF
WOLVERINE #56,
ON SALE AUGUST 22ND!

ZERRR
ZERRR
ZERRR

COME 6 A.M., THE ALARM CLOCK BLARES LIKE A FOGHORN. BUT I'M NOT STARTLED IN THE LEAST.

I'VE BEEN AWAKE FOR AN HOUR OR MORE, JUST LYING HERE...

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COLORIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

WATCHING THE MINUTES TICK AWAY...

ANXIOUS FOR THE DAY TO BEGIN.

DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP, BUT AFTER TWO-AND-A-HALF CUPS OF EXTRA-BOLD SUMATRA, MY EYEBALLS ARE JUMPING OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS...

AND I'M GOOD TO GO.

HEY, *WENDELL*. YOU SEE THAT GAME LAST NIGHT?

NO, I MISSED IT.

OH, IT WAS A CLASSIC. *HELLUVA* FOURTH QUARTER.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR HAND ON THE SCANNER...

THANK YOU. GOING DOWN.

PING

BASEMENT LEVEL. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.

HEY, KARL, 'ZAT YOU?

HEY, WENDELL. YOU SEE THAT GAME LAST NIGHT?

YEAH, HELLUVA FOURTH QUARTER, HUH?

SURE WAS.

BBZZZZ

HEY, DORIS. HOW'S IT GOING?

I HEAR YA.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER DOLLAR.

DORIS IS WEARING THAT SWEATER AGAIN.

I COULD MAYBE STAY AND CHAT WITH HER... STILL HAVE A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MY SHIFT STARTS...

BUT I'M EAGER TO GET INSIDE, TO GET TO THE JOB...

SO I CAN *RELAX.*

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

240 CARTRIDGES CAL .50 LINKED

TMG

PO WT.

HEY, WENDELL. 'BOUT THAT TIME I GUESS, HUH?

00:00

YEP.

HEY, *TELL* ME SOMETHING...

YOU EVER HEARD HIM MAKE A SOUND?

WHO? *HIM?*

YEAH. I MEAN, IT'S BEEN *SIX WEEKS,* RIGHT, AND I'VE NEVER HEARD HIM CRY OUT OR WHIMPER OR *NOTHIN'.*

BEST NOT TO DWELL ON IT, KID.

YEAH, BUT DON'T YOU EVER WONDER, LIKE, WHAT HIS *STORY* IS AND ALL?

HE'S IN THE PIT. WE'RE PAID TO KEEP HIM THERE. END OF STORY.

09:37

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.

ANYWAY, I'LL SEE YA TOMORROW.

I DIDN'T TELL THE KID, BUT THERE WAS ONE THING I *DID* KNOW ABOUT THE MAN IN THE PIT.

OVER THE YEARS, I'VE SAT ACROSS THE TABLE FROM SOME OF THE MOST DEPRAVED AND DANGEROUS KILLERS YOU CAN IMAGINE.

AFTER A WHILE, YOU GET SO YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR EYES.

AND ONE LOOK AT THE MAN IN THE PIT, JUST ONE LOOK IN THOSE COLD, BLACK EYES, AND I KNOW...

I KNOW BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT...

THIS SONUVABITCH IS AS DANGEROUS AS THEY COME.

FOR MOST PEOPLE, IT STILL MIGHT BE HARD TO DO WHAT I DO, HAVING NO IDEA WHO THIS GUY IS OR WHAT HE'S ACTUALLY DONE TO DESERVE SUCH PUNISHMENT.

00:03

00:02

FOR ME THOUGH, THIS IS *EASY*.

FOR ME, THIS HAS BECOME THERAPEUTIC. A STRESS RELIEVER, YOU MIGHT SAY.

DING DING DING

00:01

SOME PEOPLE SQUEEZE THOSE LITTLE SQUISHY THINGS. OTHERS WATCH STEEL BALLS CLINK BACK AND FORTH ON THEIR DESKS.

ME, I TAKE A GUN THAT FIRES 1,000 ROUNDS A MINUTE...

AND I SHOOT THE MAN IN THE PIT.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

TO BE CONTINUED IN WOLVERINE #56, ON SALE AUGUST 22ND!